

THE TRAP

i require a holdall
i have voted
i put my cap on
and we are free to vote
and i said i would never
vote again
this is one of the ways in
which we are caught ...
and now they tell me they
would like me to teach
printing
the local adult education
centre
50 pounds for 4 hours
work
double my weeks dole
cheque ...
this is one of the ways in
which we are caught ...
vote? — for what?
we are all part of the
shoal, the nets cast all
about us ...
we move on mass, in flurrys,
in stops and starts ... fish,
yes fish, but not fish ...
men, mean frightend men ...
will i take the job? — i
hope not, for pittys sake
i hope not ...

DAY UP LONDON

the black girl in the bright
yellow rayon trouser suit who
lent over the edge of the platform
at victoria station and let go
a brown jet of liquid from
between her gapped wite teeth
adjusted her dark glasses and
followed her wite pin-striped
husband onto the train carrage
who inquired angrily — where
the hell were you?

— Billy Childish

Rochester Kent, England